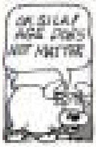


Males fight over older females—in chimp world



WASHINGTON—CHIMPANZEE males prefer to have sex with older females, US researchers found in a study published on Monday that shows one of the biggest behavioral differences between humans and our closest biological relatives.

MALES FIGHT/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, November 23, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 357 P18 website: www.inq7.net

RP is No. 6 in world gender equality survey

LONDON—NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS achieved equality of the sexes in the key areas of economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment, according to a new ranking of 115 nations published on Tuesday.

Sweden has gone farthest in eliminating inequality between men and women, followed by

RP IS NO. 6/ A4

Gov't firm overcharging

Revision or amendment? Cha-cha debate rages

By Norman Bordadora and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE DEBATE ON A PEOPLE'S initiative as a mode of Charter change continues to rage despite the final ruling of the Supreme Court rejecting the motion for reconsideration filed by allies of the Arroyo administration, a law school dean said yesterday.

"That is still a non-settled issue," Amado Valdez, dean of the University of the East College of Law, said in a phone interview. "There is still a debate on what is an amendment and what is a revision."

According to Valdez, what was settled by the Supreme Court decision on Tuesday was that Republic Act No. 6735 (or the Initiative and Referendum Act) is sufficient to propose amendments to

REVISION/ A4



RARE FLORA. Garden store proprietress in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Lorna Cuenco looks over the rare and exotic orchid named Palawan Grande Flora. Endemic to the province, this orchid variety is prohibited from being transported out of the country. A single plant reportedly retails in Manila from P1,800 to P6,000.

PSALM found guilty of rigging power rates

By Abigail L. Ho

STATE-RUN POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has been found guilty of manipulating prices at the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), causing power rates to spike during the Aug. 26-Sept. 25 trading month, the operator of the spot market said yesterday.

Prices at the spot market rose 74 percent from P2.780 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in the first trading month to P4.853 per kWh in the third in September.

The 24-hour, computer-based wholesale spot market opened in June with the promise of improved efficiency in the trade of electricity by producers and large distributors, including Manila Electric Co.

PSALM trades on behalf of plants with a total capacity of 6,000 megawatts. Some of the plants are owned by state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) and others by privately owned independent power producers (IPPs) holding contracts with Napocor.

GOV'T FIRM/ A4

2007 SENATORIAL PREFERENCES

	Aware	Voting Pref.	Rank
LEGARDA, Loren	98	52.9	1
LACSON, Panfilo "Ping" M.	99	41.1	2-3
PANGILINAN, Francis "Kiko" N.	98	36.6	2-4
VILLAR, Manuel "Manny" B. Jr.	97	31.4	3-6
CAYETANO, Alan Peter S.	98	30.9	4-8
SOTTO, Vicente "Tito" C. III	99	30.5	4-8
RECTO, Ralph G.	98	28.1	4-10
SANCHEZ, [illegible]	92	27.0	4-11
PIMENTEL, Aquilino "Koko" III	93	24.8	7-12
HONASAN, Gregorio "Gringo" B.	99	24.1	7-12
EJERCITO-ESTRADA, JV	98	22.7	8-16
ANGARA, Edgardo "Ed" J.	99	20.2	9-16
AQUINO, Benigno "Noynoy" C. III	98	19.3	11-22
ESCUDERO, Francis "Chiz" G.	91	19.3	11-22
[illegible]	93	[illegible]	11-24
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11-24
MARCOS, Imee R.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ARROYO, Joker P.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ESTRADA, Luisa "Loi" P.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DEFENSOR, Michael "Mike" T.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BINAY, Jejomar "Jojo" C.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ATIENZA, Jose "Lito" L. Jr.	84	[illegible]	[illegible]
TATAD, Francisco "Kit" S.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ROCO, Sonia M.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PADILLA, [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GOMEZ, Richard "Goma"	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HERRERA, Ernesto "Boy" F.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RAMOS, [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GOLEZ, [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AQUINO-ORETA, Teresa "Tessie"	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OPLE, Susan "Toots"	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TRILLANES, Antonio "Sonny" F. IV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CABRAL, [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
None/Refused/Undecided		11.2	

Opposition dominates Senate race survey

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARDA LEADS the possible winners of the senatorial elections scheduled for May based on results of a Pulse Asia Inc. survey released this month.

Pulse Asia's survey of Filipinos' preference for certain senatorial aspirants showed that 18 other opposition politicians would likely dominate the race if elections were held today.

The survey showed that more than half of the voters (52.9 percent) would likely vote for Legarda, 41.1 percent for Sen. Panfilo Lacson, 36.6 percent for Sen. Francis Pangilinan, 31.4 percent for Senate President Manuel Villar, 30.9 percent for Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, and 30.5 percent for former Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

The survey, conducted from Oct. 21 to Nov. 8 nationwide, covered 1,200 adults. The national data have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level. The regional data have a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

The respondents were presented a list of 64 names of likely senatorial candidates and were asked the question: "Should the 2007 elections be held today who among the following personalities would you vote for, if ever they run for senator?"

Legarda, running mate of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 presidential

OPPOSITION/ A4



REFLECTIONS. Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV (right), acknowledged leader of the young Magdalo officers allegedly involved in the 2003 Oakwood coup attempt, and Lt. Col. Eugene Gonzales are driven back to their detention cells after their court-martial hearing in Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday.

Trillanes hails Gringo: See you in better times

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NAVY LT. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV YESterday insisted former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan was not involved in the short-lived mutiny he led in July 2003.

"I have said time and again that the Oakwood incident was solely our own," the acknowledged leader of the "Magdalo" rebel junior officers told reporters during a break in their court-martial hearing in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said the government's insistence that Honasan was the brains of the mutiny was a mere ploy to portray the 300 officers and soldiers who laid siege at Oakwood commercial complex in Makati City as "nothing but pawns with no real or valid grievances."

TRILLANES/ A4

NEW PNP POLICY

Cop chiefs told: Solve political slays, or else

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—Philippine National Police commanders in provinces, towns and cities face relief if they fail to solve political and media killings in their areas, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said here on Wednesday.

Calderon announced the policy a week after foreign chambers of commerce urged President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to put an end to extrajudicial executions or risk losing aid and investments.

"I will now be invoking the command responsibility principle again so that if there are incidents that happen in their respective area, it will be the head of the chief of police who will be at stake," Calderon told reporters before the start of the two-day national forum on internal security and counterterrorism here.

"If we are not satisfied with the progress of the investigation and the

COP CHIEFS/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

Breast-feeding campaign not a lonely battle

Lawyers preparing to allot Marcos loot

VICTIMS OF THE MARCOS dictatorship could get an initial $2,000 each as early as Christmas—provided the Philippine government waives its right to appeal a US court decision awarding $35 million of disputed Marcos funds to them.



CLAIMANTS Lawyers Rod Domingo and Robert Swift (right)

PCGG appeal

House bloated budget by P8B, says Miriam

Unconstitutional

'Mind-numbing'

No threat in Asean summit



Gov't firm found guilty of manipulating prices

IN THE KNOW

How power market works



Consumers spared

Adjustments

Transfer to private sector

Applauded

Cop chiefs told: Solve political murders, or else

No time frame



CALDERON invokes principle of command responsibility.

RP is No. 6 in world gender equality survey

Patchy progress

Women in politics

Empowered in labor

Access to resources

Correction

Males fight over older females—in chimp world

Courtship signals

Showing off

Promiscuous world

Military justice harsh but fair, says Esperon

Conduct unbecoming

Recommendatory

100 years of St. Scho, the book

JDV bares 'final push': Popular clamor on our side

By Michael Lim Ubac

282 signatures

To push or not to push

Revisions or amendments? Cha-cha debate rages

Of no legal moment

Cleaner, more transparent

Only a dictum

Legacy of independence

Opposition dominates Senate race survey

Others in Magic 12



LEGARDA



LACSON



PANGILINAN



VILLAR



CAYETANO



SOTTO



RECTO



SANCHEZ



PIMENTEL



HONASAN

Wake-up call

Trillanes hails Gringo: Sir, see you in better times

High regard

2 soldiers freed

Detentions

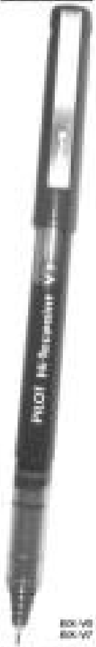


DUE PROCESS.

Customs man cries foul over graft probe

1st batch of Pinoys back from Kazakhstan

Man held for 2 kilos of shabu





Arbitration court to try Piatco case in Singapore

Prepare for polls, Palace tells allies

Street 'kapihan' for new voters

Resto stops catering to solons after 'pork' incident



By Philip C. Tubeza

GMA orders probe of oil debris sinking

By Christine O. Avendaño





INQUIRER

OPINION

Conduct unbecoming

EDITORIALS

Opportunism



'Sprinkling stardust'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Bonded

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Cha-cha stand should be major election issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Heroes

YOUNG BLOOD

Marlon Noel G. Bayaras

Workers' rights and garment labels

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



Greenhills gridlock

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

THEY SAID

Politicizing AFP

'That good'

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Other reasons Filipinos go abroad

LP to hold elections as mandated by party's constitution and by-laws

Napocor not in position to manipulate bidding in WESM

Pag-ibig doesn't choose house for beneficiaries

Painting out 'bad breath'

Across the NATION

Army says NPA setting up new zones

CALUMPIT, BULACAN—AN ARMY OFFICER, a soldier and two New People's Army rebels were killed in a clash in Barangay San Jose here early Wednesday, reports said.

New guerrilla zone

Refuge

New code to make mining more transparent drafted, presented



OVER 1,000 small-scale miners converge for the 4th Annual Small-scale Miners Congress in Baguio City. They are seeking better economic presence in the business, considering that they produced more gold than big mines last year, according to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Gov't firm seeks mining lands for reforestation

Kids sent home as bees invade school, build hive

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas



Coast Guard opposed transport of debris from oil spill in barges

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Albay power co-op needs recharging

Legazpi City

BURDENED BY MORE THAN P900 million in debts, P740 million of which is from the National Power Corp., the Albay Electric Cooperative's total liabilities roughly equal its total assets.

[illegible]

FAST FACTS

Aleco's situation

[illegible]

Salcon power

[illegible]

The co-op

[illegible]



[illegible]

Aleco's ills

[illegible]

Cops raid Digos shabu laboratory, arrest 6

By Edito S. Aguirre
Inquirer Mindanao

DIGOS CITY—POLICE RAIDED A SUSPECTED shabu laboratory inside a dismantled charcoal factory owned by a Chinese-Filipino family in Barangay [illegible] here early yesterday, Mayor Arsenio Latasa said.

Latasa, who joined the raiding team composed of members of the city police and the 1102nd Provincial Police Mobile Group, said the agents confiscated about a kilogram of powdered substance believed to be shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), chemicals and equipment believed to be used in manufacturing drugs.

He said the seized substance and the chemicals had been sent to the police crime laboratory for analysis.

At least six people, including a son of the factory owner, were arrested.

Latasa identified the suspects, who also yielded two firearms, as [illegible] Lu, son of factory owner Victor Lu; Jimmy Pancho, [illegible], and Danny [illegible], [illegible], both of [illegible], Davao del Sur; [illegible], of [illegible], Davao del Sur; [illegible], of [illegible] City; and [illegible], of [illegible] City.

[illegible] told the Inquirer that they were not involved in illegal activities.

Activated carbon

"The white substance that they confiscated and the machinery were being used to manufacture activated carbon, not shabu," he said from inside his cell at the police station.

But Latasa said police were not buying [illegible] claim.

"We have to rely on the PNP crime laboratory to ascertain whether it is shabu or not," he said.

[illegible] barangay chair [illegible] said the raid was prompted by complaints from residents that armed personnel of the factory would always drive them away if they got near it.

"We became suspicious. So I called the attention of the mayor and the police to conduct surveillance operations in the area," he said.

Cargo vans

Latasa said that during the surveillance operation, police authorities monitored cargo vans and other vehicles entering and leaving the factory during the wee hours of the morning.

He said this affirmed the lawmen's decision to secure a search warrant from the court.

Latasa said the outcome of the raid could prove suspicions that drug syndicates had relocated their facilities outside Metro Manila because of the government's crackdown on illegal drugs.

The warehouse, where the suspected shabu laboratory was found, is about 10 meters from the highway.

About two years ago, police raided a shabu laboratory in [illegible] in Davao City, [illegible] km northeast of here.

Several persons were killed in the raid and a large quantity of shabu was hauled from the two-storey building being used by the syndicate.



THE OUTSIDE of the charcoal factory in Barangay [illegible], Digos City that police raided early morning of Nov. 22 amid the reported conversion of the plant into a shabu laboratory. At least six people were arrested. Firearms, ammunition and pieces of laboratory equipment were seized.

SPORTS

EZ2 | FOUR DIGIT | SUERTRES | MEGALOTTO 6/45



Express boost drive, overwhelm Dragons

[illegible]

Severino topples Torre in GMA Cup chessfest



[illegible]

Top ladies' seeds reach PCA quarters



[illegible]

A plus METRO



Alleged Pasig shabu mart maintainer falls

NBI not misled by suspect's new look

Edu faces another rap in Pasig City

3 BI employees in alien documents case acquitted

Violence does not solve a misunderstanding

On Target



Industrial oven catches fire in cake factory; P1M in losses

MetroBriefs

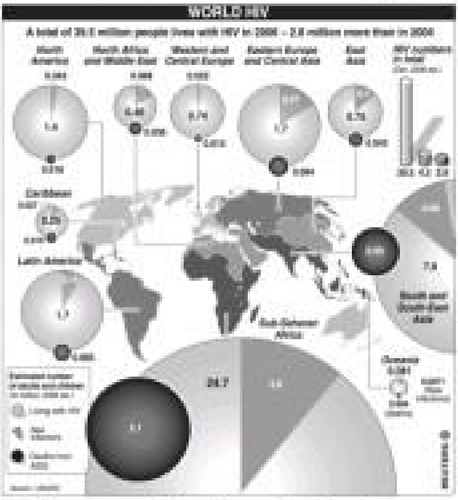
'Target' seeks police help

Double prison term

Fun run at Global City

Did you know

Alleged Pasig shabu mart maintainer falls



HIV infection on the rise in all regions–UN

Goldman seeks rights to Simpson project

Nepal gov't, Maoist rebels end civil war

Over a million African babies die in first weeks, says report

Legendary director Robert Altman dies at 81



ALTMAN

Cosmonaut to hit golf ball from int'l space station

WorldBriefs

Over 32 oil workers seized in Nigeria

6 imams detained at US airport

Thaksin returns to Hong Kong

Italian aid workers freed in Gaza

The WORLD

Assassination sparks new crisis in Lebanon

BEIRUT—LEBANON BEGAN three days of mourning on Wednesday as a bitter power struggle brewed after the assassination of an anti-Syrian Christian cabinet minister that his allies blamed on Damascus.



GEMAYEL

Annan: US 'trapped' in Iraq



Syria, Iraq restore diplomatic relations

Iraq Sunni speaker escapes slay try

Exact cause of ex-KGB agent's illness eludes poison experts



WHAT'S INSIDE

Cavs thwart Grizzlies; Pistons subdue Sixers /A23

SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres

Furyk paces Grand Slam; Woods 3 strokes behind /A23



Castro takes Tañamor slot in AG boxing

Manny says thank you to gym staff



MANNY PACQUIAO: Manila-bound on Friday

2 RP women pugs assured of bronze medals

Morales doomed as other great fighters before him



MORALES

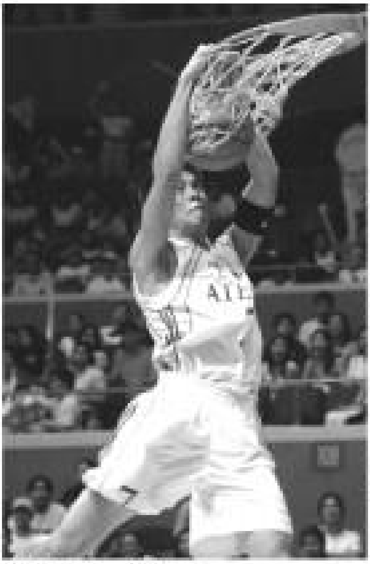
National Interclub Badminton Cup begins today

Robin's in love with muay thai

IN HUDDLE



Intal returns as H. Centre meets Kettle



Chinese Taipei, Indonesia enters Gov. Enverga Cup



TAC Padilla

Founders Cup blasts off

Subic Marathon lures 4,000 bets

SPORTSWATCH

Runners 5K-10K Executive Classic

PRC Wangs, CKP168.com prevail

Bakbakan finals under way today

LPC cockfest features 80 matches





Cavs thwart Grizzlies; Pistons subdue Sixers

Jones nails three triples

NEW YORK—DAMON JONES NAILED A TRIO OF THREE-pointers in the fourth quarter to lift the Eastern Conference-leading Cleveland Cavaliers to a 97-94 home win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday.

Surgery keeps Iverson silent



Furyk leads Grand Slam; Woods 3 strokes behind







AL picks Morneau '06 MVP

Side events calendared for Milo run nat'l finals



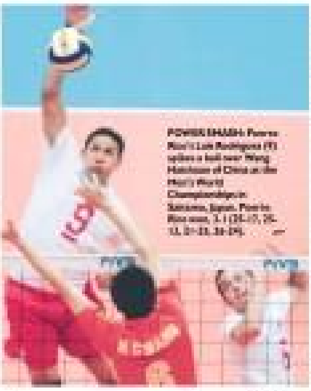
SPORTS

Asiad conditions impress Ramirez

Cold rooms sole problem

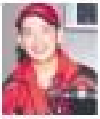


RAMIREZ



Iloilo hosts Supercross

Almazan makes it to MRRS in Italy



ALMAZAN



27-man RP team off for Fespic tilt

Spring Tagaytay nips Montaña Davao



BUSINESS

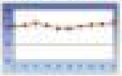


Fitch rules out early ratings upgrade

Lingering concerns on keeping revenues rising

LONDON-BASED FITCH RATINGS IS NOT INCLINED TO upgrade its credit rating on the Philippines any time soon, citing lingering concerns on whether revenues could cope with huge spending pressures from infrastructure bottlenecks over the medium term.

Currencies



Stock Market



Shares end higher on rosy economic outlook

Citibank ventures into Mindanao

INTERNAL PROBE SEES NOTHING ILLEGAL

Bloated revenue allegations haunt SMC soft drinks unit

SPECIAL REPORT

It's Napocor, stupid

Breaktime



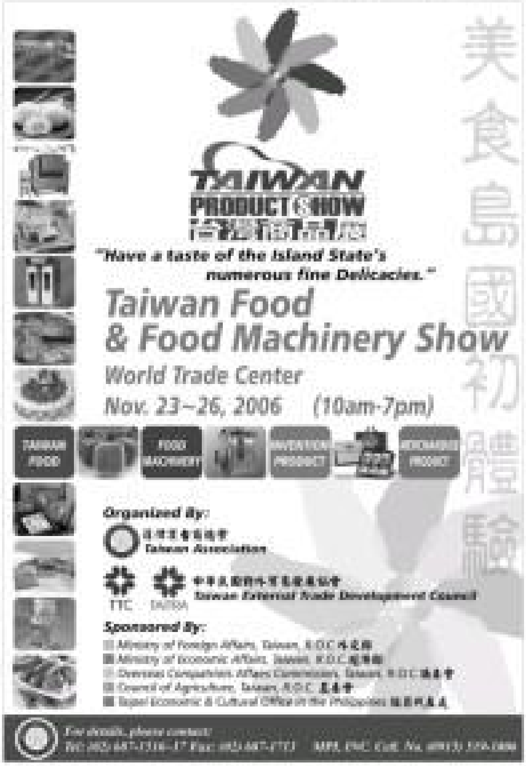
Conrado R. Banal III

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

UCPB

Citibank …

Shares …



GMA approves new version of credit services law

HGC raises P6B

DOF version limits gov't authority to engage in lending programs

By Michelle V. Remo

Business slow in Pangasinan



PNOC, Brunei firm seek deals

Business groups hit credit card policy

PCCI, appliance association urge DTI not to implement 'one price tag' order

By Abigail L. Ho

Non-fiscal perks eyed for senior citizens

Nido Petroleum sets aside 25M for exploration

'07 corn yield seen to grow by 14 percent

By Christine A. Gaylican

ALI, Campos group hike stake in BLC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Landbank to raise ₱2.5B from local offer next year

By Doris C. Dumlao

Pork lovers rejoice on 'no pig holiday' news

By Christine A. Gaylican

Fraud claims haunt SMC soft drinks unit

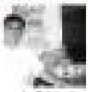
Fitch rules out early ...

St. Luke's offers Great Expectations Package for expectant moms



METROBANK LENDS P1-B TO SMART FOR NETWORK UPGRADE

A STAUNCH ADVOCATE OF MABUHAY TINAPAY



SEMINAR ON TOURIST AND WORKING VISAS



BOWLING CHAMPS





3RD ANCA AWARD FOR A-PLUS PAINTS

Product Files

Acer makes reel experience real



QubePC now in Davao and Cebu

Student-friendly University Tower II launched in U-belt

SUN CELLULAR'S LOWEST BID WINNER



OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory

of

DR. ROMEO S. GUTIERREZ

December 13, 1942

November 21, 2006

Loyola Memorial Chapel

Guadalupe, Makati City

In Loving Memory

Don Manuel Cancio



MASS SCHEDULE

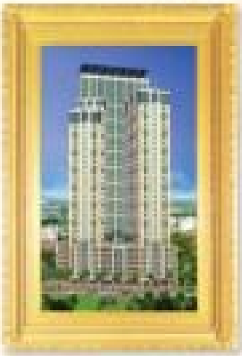


EASTWOOD

LEGRAND

IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, YOU'RE NOT IN.





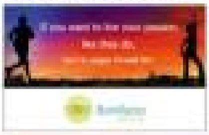
Own a studio unit for as low as US$350 a month.

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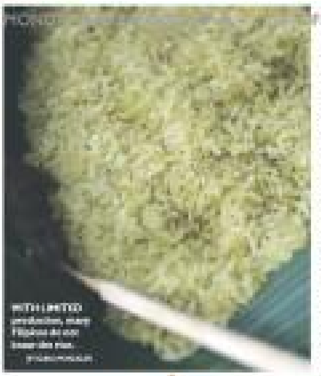
For inquiries, call (632)421-4243·421-4247



LifeStyle

Editor: Chito Barcel-Fernando





WITH LIMITED production, many Filipinos do not

The tedious process and the rarity of *duman* account for its price of P800 per kilo

The grain that started a tradition

[illegible]

Festival

[illegible]

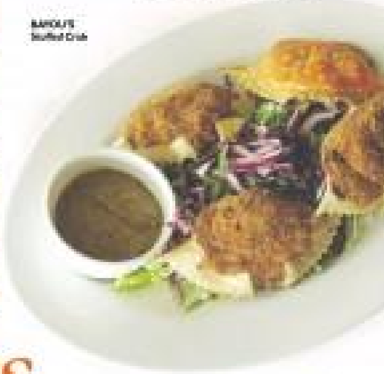
Small town, big taste

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FOUR SEASONS Salad


BOURBON STYLE Ribs

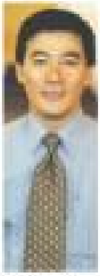

BAYOU'S Stuffed Crab


CAFE du Monde, imported coffee from New Orleans

Flavors of Mardi Gras

The new Gumbo restaurant may be the only place in Manila serving authentic Creole and Cajun dishes


SEAFOOD Gumbo




NEW ORLEANS Bread Pudding


SHRIMP New Orleans


SEAFOOD Jambalaya

Warm ambiance





Bold flavors

Hassle-free Thanksgiving turkey

Holiday baking and decorating

Edible Christmas gifts

Triple Christmas treat





Some basic facts about insurance

THE CONSUMER

Chinese festival in QC



Sweet Xmas gifts and décor

Edible Christmas tree

Christmas angel



The cook has left

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix



CROWNING CHEFS.



Protege

Book lore



LIFESTYLE





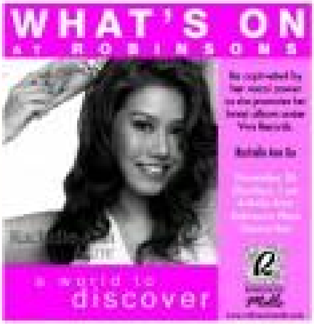
KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

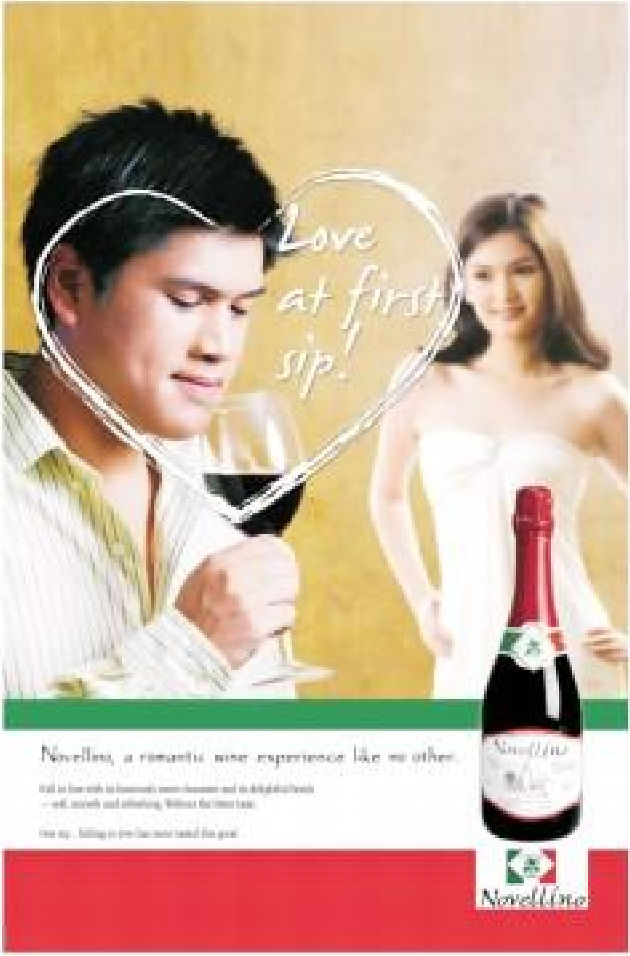
Imeldific dishes

Savvy cook







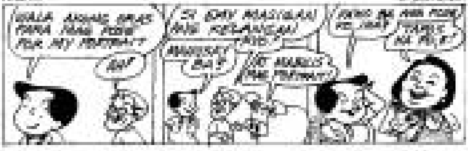




FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



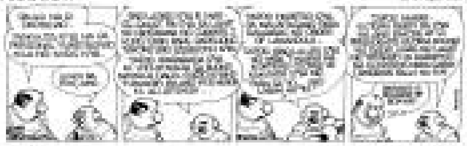
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



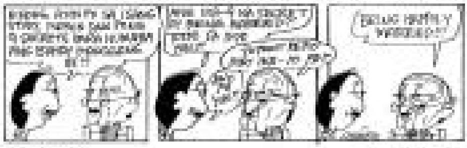
PUGAD BABOY BY PM JUNIOR



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVELHOTS



ATOMO AND WEBBY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



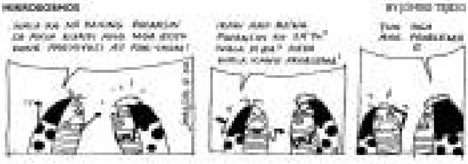
DIVINE COMEDY



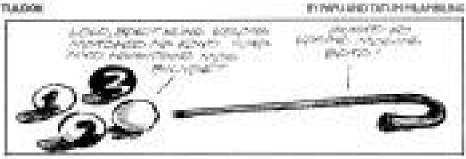
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



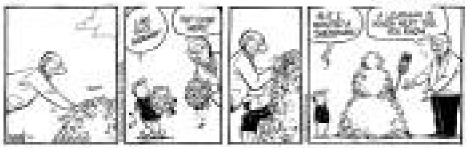
HOBOSOMOS



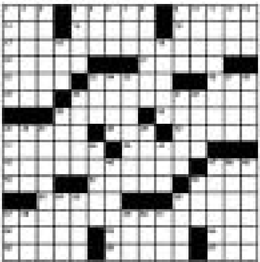
TULDOK



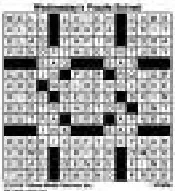
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

1	6		3					
5		9	7					8
						5		3
						9		7
			9	4	1			
6		2						
8		5						
4					7	8		6
					2		4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle



VICENTE Quimbo and Italian wine-maker Franco Noemmi show off Novellino wines for export.

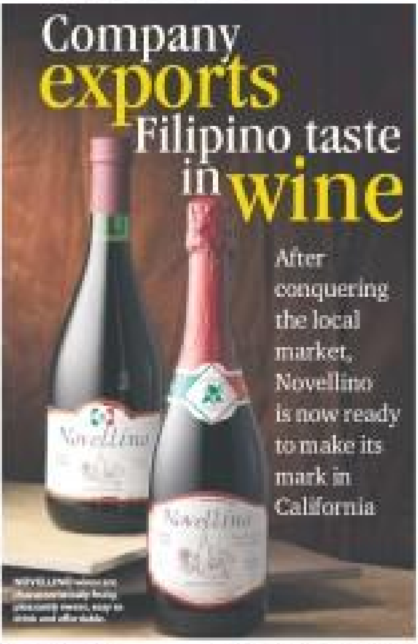


QUIMBO demonstrates the automated bottling process.



BEL MONDO state-of-the-art winery in Valenzuela City

Company exports Filipino taste in wine



After conquering the local market, Novellino is now ready to make its mark in California

NOVELLINO wines are characteristically fruity, pleasantly sweet, easy to drink and affordable.

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Crespo

DESPITE THE INFLUX OF FOREIGN labels, a small but daring wine-producing company in [illegible] Valenzuela City has found its niche in the wine market, [illegible]

[illegible]

High standards

[illegible]



THE FIRST shipment of Novellino wines to northern California is loaded.

[illegible]

Sweet and dry

[illegible]



SEAFOOD Penne Pesto

No longer just an ice cream place

THE NESTLE CREAMERY ON AURORA Boulevard in Quezon City has reopened with a new look and an updated and expanded menu.

[illegible]

Imeldific dishes

From page D1

[illegible]

Humba (Braised Pork Belly) in Mau Tao

[illegible]



ORGANIZERS Rep. Imee Marcos and son Borgy



IMELDA with pooch [illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

Bakat Pastel

[illegible]

Cooking demo will be a family affair



ENTERTAINMENT



Getting a kick out of the 'Diamond Star'

Maricel Soriano—uncensored, unstoppable, unapologetic

A TRUE CHILD OF SHOW business and certified graduate of the University of the Silver Screen, Maricel Soriano, dubbed "Diamond Star," invariably slips into using movie terms in conversations.

TAKE FIVE

Chills and creepy thrills hit the spot



VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

RECENTLY, WE ASKED A PRODUCER what movie she was planning to bankroll next year. Her swift, no-fuss answer: "Anything with ghosts in it!"

Huh? Why has it come down to this? Because ghost movies, paranormal plots and chiller-thrillers make the most money at the box office these days.

"Yes, big and spectacular action-adventure and fantasy productions also hit it big, but they're much more expensive to produce. If you don't want to invest all of your money in only one production, ghost movies are the way to go!"

Apparently, other producers are coming around to this view. This month, many of the new local movies set for showing are ghost-oriented, like "Ang Pamana" and "Pasiyang Kang Lilitagan."

And, in the year-end Metro Manila Film Festival, spooky productions like "Shake, Rattle and Roll 8," "Matakot Ka sa Karma" and "Ligalig" have been accepted as official filmfest entries.

'Monster' hit

Producers' current fetish for scary movies has been motivated by the "monster" hit that "Tiktik" has become. Some people even say that it is now the biggest Filipino film hit ever, period.

Naturally, other producers want to get a slice of the huge pie that ghost-oriented movies have become.

Also encouraging is the news that Yam Laranas has gotten Hollywood financing to the tune of $5 million to make the English-language version of his own spooky film, "Sigaw."

Variety preferred

For our part, we're glad that some producers are enjoying a measure of success with chillers, but we prefer greater variety in our viewing fare. So, the prospect of seeing so many horror movies eventually forbidden rather than excites.

But, another producer is more sanguine in his view of how horror movies have helped revive the local film industry.

He shares: "Do you know that, in the provinces, horror films have replaced bold productions in popularity? Five years ago, horror flicks weren't at all popular outside of the major cities in the country, but they rake in a lot of money today.

"This could be due to the fact that in the Asian region, scary movies have tended to be popular in countries that experience a lot of political or psychological upheavals—like Korea, Japan and Thailand, where many hit horror productions are produced. Some of them even become hits abroad, or else in their original form or in their US versions.

"This is the case, because the upheavals make people insecure and afraid, so scary movies provide them with a 'safe' outlet for screaming and 'exorcising' their fears out of their system. Classically, this is called 'catharsis,' and this is what happens these days when you react to a scary film.

"Horror films are also hits because they're become 'date' or 'barkada' viewing experiences. If you watch them with your sweetheart or your friends, you feel better and shriek with gusto! And in the process, many more movie tickets are sold—so, 'everybody happy'!"

'Stargazing @ Ever'

Alpha Music's top artists perform at Ever Gotesco Malls this month. "Stargazing @ Ever with Alpha Music" presents Fritz on Nov. 25 at Ever Gotesco-Recto and Mabel on Nov. 30 at Ever Gotesco Grand Central.

'Kartun ni Nonoy Marcelo'

Friends and fans of Nonoy Marcelo will be happy to know that the late, much-lamented artist's cartoons will be presented in a memorial exhibit at the seventh floor of Robinson's Place, Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila. The exhibit, titled "Kartun ni Nonoy Marcelo," opens at 4 p.m. on Nov. 26.





JOHALYN Abilong, "artista"

Aeta teacher in 'Manoro' says acting was a breeze

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—THE SCROUNGE FOR money because they had little financial support, tackled an unconventional theme and worked with an all-Aeta cast in a mountain village.

Call it pure luck—or faith. All the risks taken by director Brillante Mendoza and producer Ferdinand Lapuz have paid off. The film, "Manoro," bagged the Cinemavvenire Prize at the 24th Torino International Film Festival in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 18. The award is handed out by a jury composed of 15 young people and journalists. Exactly a week before, it won Best Director and Best Picture in the Digital Lokal competition of the 8th Cinemanila International Film Festival.

"Manoro" is also the country's entry to the Festival of Three Continents in Nantes, France, set later this month, according to the co-producer, Holy Angel University Center for Kapampangan Studies.

In the mountain community of Sitio Target, there is palpable thrill and pride over this feat, says the mother and the film's lead actress. The village, located in Barangay Sapang Bato here, was the setting of the film, shot just weeks before the 2004 elections.

"We all feel fulfilled and happy," said 16-year-old Jonalyn Ablong, who played herself as the lead character, told the Inquirer on Monday.

"Balewa ang maipapakita ko kasi sa (TV), sa di ko alo rosin," said Ton Pae, community coordinator during the film production.

The Nov. 11 awards rites in Malacañang, which Pae and some cast members attended, was the subject of lively chatter in the village. Pae said they were laughing about their near-failure to enter the Palace "because most of us just wore slippers."

Amused

Seated among a group of girls and women during the interview, Ablong looked amused at the mention of the word artista, which she has been called since making the movie.

She was 14, fresh out of Grade 6 at the time. She said her role, that of a "manoro"—a teacher who taught voters in her tribe how to read, write and count—did not depart from what she did in real life.

"Before we started shooting, I was already doing literacy classes for relatives," she said. "It was not new to me."

Education is highly valued in Target, southwest of the former Clark Air Base, now the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Pae said that when the elders returned to the village in 1998—after living in Nueva Ecija for seven years following Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruption—among the first structures they rebuilt was an elementary school.

Reward

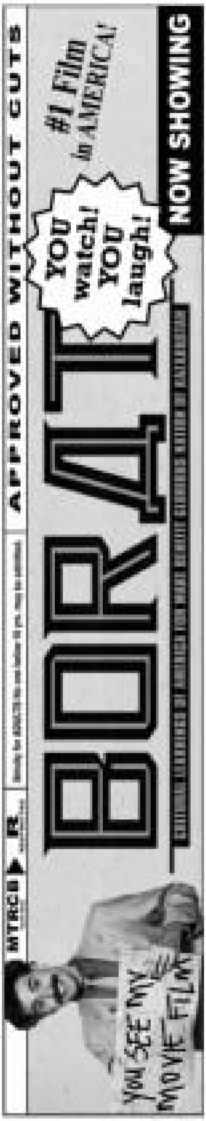
Ablong was a member of the cultural troupe that depicted, in dances and rituals, the displacement of the Aetas and their aspirations.

Carol, Ablong's mother, was a graduate of adult literacy classes conducted by Benedictine nuns. She said she had passed on to her daughters her love of learning.

The movie followed Jonalyn, as the manoro, as week in Target and its outlying villages Sabang, Third, Prado and Five Camps at the volcano's foothills.

She taught the elders how to write the initials of the candidates, like "GMA" and "FPJ."

No one in the cast was overpaid for acting, Pae said, but it was enough reward that they were all involved in the film.







Did You Know...

Dropped from 'Hobbit'

[illegible] Reuters

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

GALLERIA

1 CASINO ROYALE • THX
2 FRAGILE
3 THE COVENANT
4 PAMANA: THE INHERITANCE
5 HAPPY FEET
6 BORAT
7 HAPPY FEET
8 'WAG KANG LILINGON
9 GIGIL
10 ZU WARRIORS

ERMITA

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 PAMANA: THE INHERITANCE
3 GIGIL
4 HAPPY FEET
5 BORAT
6 FRAGILE
7 ZU WARRIORS

METRO EAST

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 HAPPY FEET
3 'WAG KANG LILINGON
4 BORAT
5 GIGIL
6 ZU WARRIORS
7 FRAGILE
8 PAMANA: THE INHERITANCE

NOVALICHES

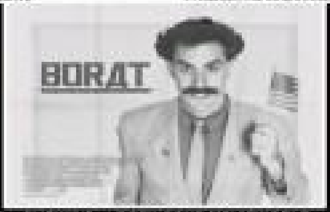
1 CASINO ROYALE
2 FRAGILE
3 HAPPY FEET
4 BORAT
5 PAMANA: THE INHERITANCE
6 GIGIL

OTISQUARE MALABON

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 HAPPY FEET
2 BORAT
3 CASINO ROYALE
4 PAMANA: THE INHERITANCE



SHOWING at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD on NOVEMBER 22

STA. ROSA

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 BORAT
4 GIGIL

LIPA

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 THE GRUDGE 2

DASMARIÑAS

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 BORAT
3 HAPPY FEET
4 GIGIL

ANGELES

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 GIGIL
4 HAPPY FEET

IMUS

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 HAPPY FEET
4 GIGIL
5 BORAT

STARMILLS

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 GIGIL
4 HAPPY FEET
5 BOA
6 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS

BACOLOD

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 HAPPY FEET
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 THE MARINE
6 CAKE

ILOILO

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 'WAG KANG LILINGON
3 GIGIL
4 HAPPY FEET
5 THE MARINE
6 THE GRUDGE 2

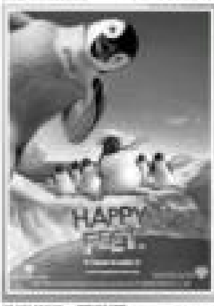
movietime SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie

SM CINEMA

movietime exclusive



METRO MANILA



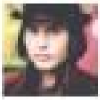


SHOWTIME



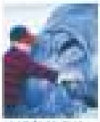
Event Calendar

Kid Fit



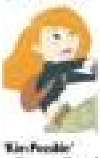
JOHNNY DEPP as "Willy Wonka"

Charlie on HBO



"MEE-SHEE: THE WATER GIANT"

'Water Giant'



'Kim Possible'

Ruffa, Angel, Gretchen, Dawn—who's the prima donna?



DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Cinderella

Victor and victim

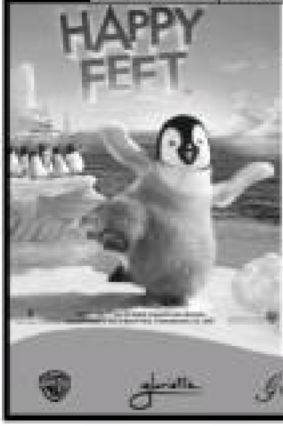
F.Y.I. (For Your Indulgence)

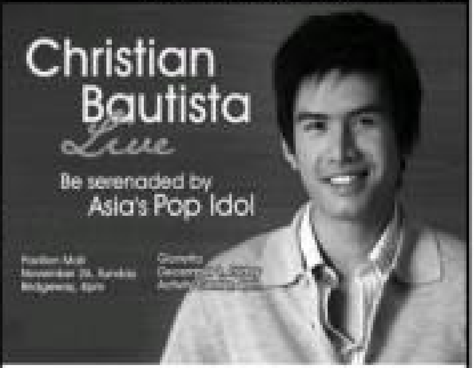
10 Teens

Listening party

Wine festival

"Papicci"





ENTERTAINMENT



Getting a kick out of the 'Diamond Star'

In two hours, with a thousand facial expressions, she talks of herself; her favorite people; what makes her truly happy; how she stays sane; and why Botox is out for her

